



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Spring, 2011
*WasteWise...improving your bottom line and the environment
through waste reduction, recycling and recycled product procurement.*

National and State Waste and Recycling News Looking Good

Solid waste and recycling were headline news at both the national and state levels of late and in all cases the news was good.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

Waste Generation - The USEPA recently announced that Americans generated less waste for the second straight year as national waste generation declined by 8 million tons, or 3.2%, from 2008 to 2009. In total, the United States generated 243 million tons of municipal solid waste in 2009 according to the agency's new report entitled "Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 2009 Facts and Figures." While the national recession certainly plays a role in explaining this statistic, waste generation had already started declining prior to the recession as this trend was first observed when waste generation declined by four million tons between 2007 and 2008. Waste reduction and recycling, as well as the growth in zero-waste programs by companies and communities are all seen as key factors in explaining this recent trend.

Key Ruling on Scrap Tire Fuel – After a lengthy review, the USEPA determined that whole and shredded scrap tires managed under established tire collection programs are not solid waste and can be burned as non-waste fuel. This decision is good news for those involved in scrap tire management since tire-derived fuel (TDF) is such an important end market for scrap tires. In fact, more than 52 percent of the 300 million scrap tires generated annually in the United States are consumed as TDF. This

decision will ensure that TDF remains economically competitive with other fuels.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

Recycling Tonnage Grants - The NJDEP recently provided \$13 million in grants to municipalities and counties to assist local recycling efforts. These recycling tonnage grants are supported by a \$3.00 per ton surcharge on trash disposed at solid waste facilities. This surcharge was established in the Recycling Enhancement Act of 2008. Municipalities and counties can use this grant funding to purchase recycling equipment and recycling containers, for recycling education and promotion programs and for recycling staff, among other things.

Food Waste Recycling Grants – The Department initiated a recycling research and demonstration grant program in 2010 that provides funding to colleges and universities that seek to establish food waste recycling systems on their campuses. The funds from this program will be utilized to purchase food waste recycling equipment that will help the schools recycle more material and will result in less material being disposed in solid waste facilities. This program is funded through the recycling surcharge established in the Recycling Enhancement Act. Thus far, five schools have been approved for grants. With approximately half of the available 2010 funds unexpended, the Bureau of Recycling and Planning recently reopened the first round of this grant program and is now accepting new applications for the remaining 2010 grant funds.

Meeting Reminder - The next meeting of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network will be held on May 18, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at PSE&G's Hadley Road facility in South Plainfield. For further information, contact Steven Rinaldi at Steven.Rinaldi@dep.state.nj.us.

Did You Know...

- The "Fridgecouch," the brainchild of Canadian designer Adrian Johnson, is a couch that is constructed with old refrigerators and salvaged car seats. While still in the development stage, each Fridgecouch is not only a unique art piece, but also a functional eco-product. For more information, visit www.fridgecouch.com.
- The Atlantic County Utilities Authority is in the process of retrofitting its now dormant recycling center in Egg Harbor Township so that it will be able to process "single stream" recyclables. The facility should be operational sometime later this year.
- Valvoline recently announced that it will start selling a recycled motor oil under the name NextGen in April, 2011. The oil will be made from a 50% re-refined base oil combined with virgin base oil. The product meets new vehicle manufacturer specifications, performs as well as virgin motor oil and carries the same engine guarantee.
- A "green wedding" is any wedding where the couple tries to decrease the impact of their event on the planet - and there are many ways to do it without sacrificing style or elegance! Green weddings are eco-chic, which means they are every bit as gorgeous as conventional weddings, but without the waste. Learn how to recycle a wedding dress and donate leftover food and more at www.greenbrideguide.com.
- Asphalt rubber paving can reduce roadway noise by as much as 85%. It was used on Rt. 280 through Livingston and Orange Townships for this very reason. This NJDOT project is viewed as an unqualified success.

Tsunami Cleanup a Massive Task

While the tragic loss of life that resulted from the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan earlier this month will forever be remembered worldwide, one of the key tasks now facing this country is the cleanup of the incredible mess left behind by these two interwoven natural disasters.

In addition to the countless cars, buildings and boats destroyed and tons of debris washed inland, the tsunami also left behind knee-high mud that pervades the entire disaster zone. At this early stage in the cleanup, workers are simply trying to clear the roads and have been piling up debris into large mounds. There are a number of state-of-the-art incinerators and sanitary landfills in the country; however, this disaster presents waste problems that have never before been encountered in Japan. It is estimated that the cleanup and reconstruction will take at least five years.

New Industry Group Will Focus on Green Information Exchange

GreenXchange is the name of a new organization that has been formed to help companies share intellectual property pertaining to "green" product design, packaging and manufacturing practices. The driving force behind this organization is the idea that it makes no sense to reinvent the wheel. For example, Nike, Inc., one of the founders of the group, has developed materials and processes that reduce the environmental impact of its products, such as water-based adhesives, and is willing to share its green innovations with other companies but lacked the means to do so. Through GreenXchange, companies will be able to share such patented information, as well as more general information, including ways to reduce waste and utilize recycled feedstocks. Undoubtedly, the idea of sharing "green" business practices makes sense both environmentally and economically. For further information, visit <http://www.greenxchange.cc/>.

Market Snapshot (3/11) – Sorted Office Paper (baled) is currently valued at almost \$240 per ton!

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